



St. Augustine's Secures Future Southwest Community Commitment

By Glenn Favreau

After many months of negotiations, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church has announced a redevelopment partnership with PN Hoffman-Madison Marquette. The agreement provides St. Augustine's with a unique opportunity to build a brand new church building in its prominent location on the Southwest Waterfront at 600 M St., SW.

The church congregation is steward of the property, which is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Bishop John Bryson Chane told *The Southwester* that the construction of a new church for St. Augustine's "is the most challenging urban church redevelopment project that [the Washington] diocese has undertaken."

The project will include a new freestanding church built facing Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. The remainder of the property will be developed by PN Hoffman as a residential development of approximately 100 units, blending with the current housing along Sixth Street and the new housing planned for Phase 3 of the Waterfront project.

Traffic flow on Sixth Street is proposed to be limited to one way toward M Street, and off-street parking will be provided for the development. An underground parking garage will have its entrance on the northwest side of the site, facing away from the established neighborhood. Sixth Street will retain residential parking on both sides.

The design of the project will complement the established neighborhood. Bethesda-based SK&I Architectural Design Group has been named for the project. SK&I has worked in the neighborhood in the past, namely in the

design of Capitol Hill Tower at New Jersey and K streets, SE. The firm also designed the forthcoming townhouses of Sheridan Terrace in Anacostia.

Bishop Chane said, "It is exciting to see the creative way that a small congregation such as St. Augustine's has partnered with a developer to replace its aging church structure and be a part of the exciting renaissance of the Southwest waterfront."

"St. Augustine's is more than a church building for worship. It is a worshipping community of the Southwest neighborhood, and a servant to the greater good of all our neighbors," said Rev. Martha Clark, priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's.

Monty Hoffman, CEO of PN Hoffman, commented, "We are pleased to have completed our agreement with St. Augustine's Episcopal Church and look forward to jointly redeveloping their site in a mutually beneficial partnership. This agreement allows St. Augustine's to capture the value of its site, build a beautiful new church and establish a long-term endowment while providing attractive home ownership opportunities, compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, directly adjacent to the church."

St. Augustine's has chosen MTEA Architecture Inc., headed up by Michael Foster, who has designed many new church structures and additions in DC, Virginia and Maryland, to draw up plans for the new house of worship.

St. Augustine's will continue to be one of the important sources of both spiritual and cultural impetus in Southwest, and it now can guarantee a structure worthy of its community work and worthy of the Southwest neighborhood.

SWNA Seeks Candidates for Board Election

By Peter Atlee

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for Southwest residents, is currently seeking qualified candidates for elected positions on their board of directors. The current open offices are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and eight district representatives.

All residents of Near Southwest (zip code 20024) age 18 and older are eligible for candidacy. The eight district representatives will be elected from the four neighborhoods in Near Southwest, with two representatives per neighborhood. SWNA board members are community volunteers working on a variety of task forces within the neighborhood.

Elections will take place in mid-March. There is no advance registration or early voting and absentee ballots are not permitted. All residents of zip code 20024 age 18



Map of four SWNA election districts, each of which elect two representatives on the SWNA Board.

and older are eligible to vote.

To nominate yourself or someone else, and for more information on the positions and organization, please contact Peter Atlee by Monday, Feb. 28 at peter.atlee@gmail.com or at (484) 868-3038. The Nominations Committee will also entertain nominations from the floor during the SWNA open meeting on Feb. 28 at 7:00 p.m. Ballots will list all nominated persons and include space for write-in candidates.

Scholarship Recipient Kellogg Studies Classics in Buffalo

Alan Kellogg, a 20-year-old lifelong Southwest resident, has the right attitude about college. He's "not there to get As." Instead he's "there to learn the material. Of course, they are not necessarily mutually exclusive," he adds quickly with a laugh.

Each year, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Scholarship Fund awards several Southwest students with college scholarships. One such scholarship, in the amount of \$1,500, is supported by a grant from the Friends of Southwest D.C. (formerly River Park Friends). Kellogg, this year's recipient, is a junior at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York system's largest campus.

As a baby, Kellogg lived for a year in Sudan, where his father



was working. He has lived in Southwest since, except when away at college. He attended Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and the Sidwell Friends School for grades 7 through 12.

Kellogg's major is Classics, with a concentration on ancient Greek language and literature. Kellogg's goal is to be a professor of Classical Studies, with a focus on mythology and literature. This past semester, along with language studies, he completed courses in Greek archeology, Greek mythology and religion.

Kellogg still has years of study ahead of him. This spring he is planning on taking the Graduate Record Exam and will start thinking about graduate school. He plans to look to his professors for their advice on which school to attend. *The Southwester* congratulates Kellogg and wishes him well as he pursues his dreams.

Local Government and Organizations

ANC Monthly Meeting: *As Seen From the Pew*

By Tiffany Klaff

The first ANC 6D meeting of 2011 was held in the beautiful Molly Smith study, part of Arena Stage at The Mead Center for American Theater, and an appropriate setting to start off the year with a bang. The Jan. 10 meeting was jam-packed with agenda items and audience members who were excited to meet the three new ANC Commissioners — David Garber, Cara Shockley, and Bob Craycraft — and get down to business in the New Year. Shaking things up a bit, the Commission decided to move the Community Concerns portion to the end of the agenda, allowing the invited speakers to present first.

Edgar Dobie, Managing Director of Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, noted that Southwest Night has sold out for the 2010/2011 season and said that he would make sure that ample tickets would be available for next year's promotion. Next, the Commission approved the meeting agenda for the upcoming year. All meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month (with the exception of August, when there will be no meeting, and October, when the ANC will meet on the third Tuesday instead due to Columbus Day). For the full list of dates, meeting locations, and agendas visit www.anc6d.org.

A major issue discussed at this meeting was the traffic and pedestrian problems at the intersection of Fourth and M streets, SW. James Cheeks from the District of Columbia Department of Transportation spoke about implement-



ANC 6D Commissioners attend first meeting of 2011 in Molly Smith study, part of Arena Stage at The Mead Center for American Theater. Photo by Perry Klein.

ing additional signs, new traffic restrictions, extra pavement markings, and enhanced police enforcement. In addition, walk lights will be adjusted to adapt to periods when foot traffic is higher. These improvements will be in effect

within the next 60 days.

The big development news is the Marina Place Project planned for First and V streets, SW. This will be the first-ever residential project in Buzzards Point, and as was pointed out dur-

ing the meeting, many of our neighbors never thought that this would be a possibility. The project is in the design-review stage, and architect Eric Colbert & Associates presented a sketch of the building and grounds. The developer, Buzzards Point LLC, addressed concerns from both the Commission and the community members in attendance. Despite issues surrounding walkability, sustainability, and safety, the commission gave the project their support contingent upon the developer joining with the ANC and promoting the area as pedestrian-friendly. The developer agreed, noting that advertising walkability to the public will only make the residence more appealing to potential buyers. There will be a public hearing on the project Jan. 27.

The next ANC 6D meeting will take place at St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW at 7 p.m. on Mon., Feb. 14. For all you romantics out there, remember that our community needs love, too. Join your neighbors and ANC on Valentine's Day for more information on neighborhood development, community activities, and more.

Southwest Library to Close for Week in February

The Southwest branch of the DC Library will close for the installation of energy efficient lighting on Mon., Feb. 7 and will reopen Sat., Feb. 12. There will be no scheduled activities at the library during this time.

The Southwester

Circulation 12,000

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P.O. Box 70131

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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc., please leave a message at 202-554-8560.

Southwester Staff

Editor Emeritus: Dale MacIver

Business Manager: Position Open

Editorial Staff: Erin Fitzgerald, Tiffany Klaff, Andrea Pawley

Arts and Culture: Elaine Graves

Education and Schools: Meg Brinckman

Local Interest: Thelma Jones

Distribution: Perry Klein

Design & Layout: Electronic Ink

Printer: Silver Communications

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Community Calendar

JANUARY

THURS. 20 7 p.m. Police Service Area PSA 104 Public Meeting, Harbour Square, 500 N St., SW

10 a.m. Free computer class: Introduction to Microsoft Excel, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

FRI. 21 Half day for D.C. Public Schools

MON. 24 6:00 p.m. Monday Movie Nights @ Southwest showing *A Call to Conscience*, followed by discussion

7 p.m. Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) public meeting, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

THURS. 27 10 a.m. **Free computer class:** Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SAT. 29 1:00 p.m. Kitchen Table Book Group discussing *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid* by Jimmy Carter, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SUN. 30 11 a.m. Grounds for Discussion Forum, Barbara Ehrlich, guest, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

MON. 31 6:30 p.m. Monday Movie Nights @ Southwest showing *The Cove* (documentary)

FEBRUARY

TUE. 1 7 p.m. Police Citizens Advisory Committee monthly meeting, First Dist. Headquarters, 201 M St., SW

WED. 2 7 p.m. Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee of ANC6D, public welcome, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, First and N streets, SW

7 p.m. Art & Spirit Coffeehouse with the Boxwood Recorder Trio, desserts & coffee, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

THURS. 3 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Councilmember Tommy Wells Office Hours, Channel Inn, 650 Water St., SW

10 a.m. Free computer class: Introduction to Personal Computers, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

FRI. 4 6:30 p.m. Potluck, 7:00 p.m.: Family Game Night, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

MON. 7 Southwest Library Closes for renovations, will reopen Sat. Feb. 12.

SAT. 12 Southwest Library reopens.

MON. 14 7 p.m. Advisory Neighborhood Commission Meeting (ANC6D), open to public, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

WED. 16 12 p.m. AARP meeting and lunch, River Park Mutual Homes Community Room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW

THURS. 17 10 a.m. **Free computer class:** Introduction to the World Wide Web, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

7 p.m. Police Service Area PSA 104 Public Meeting, Town Square Towers, 700 Seventh St., SW

FRI. 18 No classes at D.C. Public Schools

SAT. 19 9 a.m. Men of Christ United Methodist Church's \$5 breakfast, 900 Fourth St., SW

MON. 21 President's Day Holiday. No classes at D.C. Public Schools.

THURS. 24 10 a.m. **Free computer class:** District of Columbia Public Library Website, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

12:30 p.m. NARFE meeting, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SAT. 26 1 p.m. Kitchen Table Book Group discussing *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SUN. 27 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. Celebrating Church's 110th anniversary and Pastor's third anniversary. Potluck after morning services, St. Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church, 401 I St., SE

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

THE SOUTH WASHINGTON WEST OF THE RIVER FATHERHOOD PROGRAM, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For more information, call Alphonso Coles at (202) 870-1885.

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, Mondays, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW. Contact Willie Mae Stukes, sewing teacher, at (301) 445-1792. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and updating their hand and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except for July and August.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m., St. Augustine's

Church, 600 M St. SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY NA, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW, (202) 484-7700.

AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT Chapter 4751, Third Wednesday of each month, except for June, July and August, River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Elger Offutt at ee.offutt@comcast.net or (202) 285-4677.

HAND DANCING classes, Jitter bug, lindy hop. Saturdays, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children ages 8 – 17. Christ United Methodist community room off Wesley Pl., SW.

CHESS CLUB, SW Library main room, 900 Wesley Pl., Wednesday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. For all levels, even beginners. **No Chess Club Feb. 9 due to library renovations.**

BLUES MONDAYS, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Various blues musicians and singers featured each Monday, \$5. Food for sale.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, 4 p.m. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5:30 p.m. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 7 p.m. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). Free with donations welcome.

JAZZ NIGHT in SW, Fridays, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Various jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday, \$5. Food for sale.

THE SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY, Monthly public meeting every fourth Monday at 7 p.m. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. First and third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade, and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions, and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block I St., SW (202) 291-6229.

SOUTHWEST FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP, 7 p.m. 2011 topics are: Rebuild Haiti, U.S. National Security, Horn of Africa, Responding to Financial Crisis, Germany Ascendant, Sanctions and Non-Proliferation, the Caucasus, and Global Governance. Tuesdays in 2011: Jan. 25, Feb. 15, Mar. 8, Mar. 29, Apr. 19, May 10, May 31 and Jun. 21. Meetings will take place at River Park Mutual Homes. For information, to order the 8-topic study guide (\$20) and to reserve a space for 2011, contact Coralie Farlee at (202) 544-4407 or cfcd13@yahoo.com.

Please submit calendar items for March events by e-mail to thesouthwester@yahoo.com by February 14, 2011.

Local Government and Organizations



Carolyn Mitchell, *The Southwester* Win Awards

The citywide Federation of Civic Associations has awarded Southwest Neighborhood Assembly president Carolyn Mitchell as Outstanding President of Local Civic Association and *The Southwester* for Outstanding Community Newsletter. The awards were announced at the organization's annual Award Luncheon at the Washington Navy Yard. *The Southwester's* Editor Emeritus Dale MacIver accepted the award on the newspaper's behalf.

Carolyn Mitchell, President, SWNA, accepting Outstanding President of Local Civic Association Award.

New Year Brings New Changes

By Carolyn Mitchell

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) is saddened to announce that Glenn Favreau, Editor of *The Southwester* newspaper, has resigned. The Assembly wishes to express sincere appreciation to Glenn for his innovative thinking, creativity, insight and unselfish giving of his time. At the helm since April 2009, we have immensely enjoyed the fresh look of the redesigned paper.

Glenn has been instrumental in informing the community of upcoming events by highlighting them in the newspaper. One of the most informational and favored pieces was the "Restaurant Guide" for Southwest/Near Southeast. Many of our residents and visitors did not realize the great variety of places to eat in our community.

On behalf of the Assembly and the many organizations that have benefited from Glenn's coverage, we commend him for his outstanding service and dedication, and wish him the best in future endeavors. Glenn's remarkable commitment will be missed by us all.

The Southwester has served a critical role in the Southwest and near Southeast community for nearly half a century. Although new forms of communication have developed since the 1960s, the circulation of *The Southwester* has never been higher. A large proportion of long-time residents cannot readily access electronic communications, and at the same time, the area is experiencing record population growth. As such, the Assembly remains committed to the survival of *The Southwester*.

We are grateful to announce that Southwester staffers Tiffany Klaff and Erin Fitzgerald have graciously agreed to become interim editors. Please welcome them. We are deeply indebted to Tiffany, Erin and the all-volunteer Southwester staff.

The Southwester is still in urgent need of a business manager to work with advertisers and other volunteers to cover events, write stories, and help with editing and proofing. If you are able to volunteer a few hours per week of your time, please let us know. Contact *The Southwester* by email at thesouthwester@yahoo.com or call 202-554-8560.



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CBCC Receives 501(c)(3), Schedules Summit

After many years in the making, the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) is now an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit. CBCC was incorporated on June 10, 2009, as an 11-member board of individuals who have demonstrated effective and active leadership in other Near SE/SW entities. The organization can now legally garner resources to ensure that redevelopment of near SE/SW serves all the residents — both new and old. In September 2010 the board expanded to 14. The organization has received consulting and a general operating start-up grant of \$10,000 from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), which promotes community development organizations across the country.

CBCC grew out of a community organizing effort, started in 2005, to help Near SE/SW neighborhood organizations and entities work together to obtain community benefits from the development happening all around us. ANC Commissioners are the primary negotiators of community benefit agreements (CBA) with developers, and the CBCC supports the ANC

to help enforce agreements that have been made. Says Carolyn Mitchell, President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, "Long ago we saw the need for CBCC to be a vehicle for managing and disbursing funds received according to priorities set by residents."

Says Ruth Hamilton, board chair, "Our goal was never to replace the longstanding organizations or those that might come into existence with new residents. We hope the CBCC can help build synergy by bringing cooperative leaders together who are in touch with other groups and a variety of citizens in the community."

To help focus the work of CBCC, a "Near SE/SW Community Benefits Summit" has been scheduled for Sat., Mar. 5, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the Amidon-Bowen Elementary School auditorium. The summit will use America Speaks' 21st-Century Town Meeting forum combining small-group, face-to-face dialogue with technology to engage citizens. Childcare will be provided.

For more information, contact Ruth Hamilton at 202-484-7700 or rwh@westminsterdc.org, or visit CBCC's Facebook page.



Felicia Coutts (left), Carmen Coutts, Shannon Vaughn (back), and Lenore Hansberry help clean up park near the library in SW.

Southwest Park Cleanup

By Eve Brooks

Some Southwest residents are reclaiming their pocket parks. Inspired by the success of the Friends of the Duck Pond, Neighbors of Town Center West Park and the need for playgrounds for children, over 15 Southwest residents from all sectors of the community came together on Sat., Dec. 11 to rake and clean the long-neglected park on I Street in front of the Southwest branch of the DC Public Library.

The clean-up effort was spurred by the Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinat-

ing Council (CBCC) and Friends of the SW Families Playground as the first step as we look to build a new playground to serve Southwest DC's diverse families. The goal is to raise more than \$100,000 from residents, community businesses, developers, foundations and city agencies by next summer for the new playground, to be located adjacent to the Southwest Library in the wooded parcel of land.

To get involved, contact Felicia Coutts at feliciacouts@yahoo.com, Paul Taylor at bigsouth@yahoo.com or Melissa Rohan at melissa.rohan@gmail.com.

SW Youth Speak Out on Violence

Several dozen Southwest teens and pre-teens voiced their opinions on how to prevent youth violence in SW. At a meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church, the youth offered dozens of suggestions. The gathering was sponsored by a youth violence task force set up by Councilmember Tommy Wells, Sasha Bruce Youthwork resident councils (from Greenleaf Gardens Extension, Syphax, James Creek and Greenleaf Midrise), and ANC members Ron McBee and Rhonda Hamilton. Pizzas and gift cards were given out.

Here are the five questions raised by adults at the meeting, and a list of youth responses.

Who would you like to have support from?

- Faith-based organizations
- Family, Parents, Siblings
- Mentors
- Encourage and comfort them
- Be a good listener
- Political Support
- Return programs to the neighborhood
- GED Program

What are some of the problems in Southwest?

- Generational crime
- Crime/killing each other
- Gangs/robbing
- Hate/gossip
- Not enough jobs
- Rats/roaches/rodents
- No GED program

- Only one recreation center
- No high school

What are some of the ways youth can prevent crime?

- I have a choice to walk away
- We have to work together (with police)
- Find things to get involved in
- Separate yourself from bad influences
- Peer mediation
- Hoods are too close together

What works in preventing violence?

- Find programs to assist with problems
- Political leaders who understand daily struggles and can provide outcomes
- Self-advocate
- Teen help options
- Free day care...can't go to school because of lack of time
- Parent workshops
- Safe places: recreation center/home/Boys & Girls Club
- Stay in your own neighborhood

What are some of the current issues in preventing violence?

- Handling it yourself may lead to more conflict
- Peer mediation won't work because people do not like others in their business
- Police stations fail to provide safe options
- Absent Boys & Girls Club in police station

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Southeast Church Receives Historic Landmark Designation

The Rev. Karen Mills announced that the Southeast church, St. Paul African Union Methodist Protestant (AUMP) Church, received its official designation as an historic landmark from the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board on Nov. 18. She said members of her congregation are now seeking grants and other means to help restore and maintain the one hundred and ten-year-old church. For history on the church, see our November article in The Southwester. Photo by David Garber.



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202 484 5754

Ingrid_Swinton_jafra@yahoo.com
www.myjafra.com/ISWINTON

Development News

By Will Rich

■ **AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School is exploring the option of expanding its presence in Southwest by bidding on the Southeastern University campus.** Currently, AppleTree does activities at Amidon-Bowen Elementary and Riverside Baptist Church locally, but does not have sufficient space to do all its programming. Cost estimates for renovating the SEU campus for use by AppleTree is approximately \$150/SF with about a third of the cost needed to upgrade building systems.

■ **Hogates has been demolished by the District government along the Southwest Waterfront.** In its place will be a temporary "stadium" with bleachers and a tennis court to host events throughout the year. The Hoffman-Madison Marquette Waterfront team hopes to lure the Washington Kastles World Team Tennis organization to the site to play games there in July since their downtown location is slated for development. The stadium will be on the site until redevelopment of the waterfront begins in the end of 2012.

■ **Phases II & III of Patriots Plaza at Fourth & E streets, SW are almost fully leased.** More than 95% of the buildings are leased to government tenants including the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General and Office of the National Coordinator for Information Technology.

■ **A Café Phillips deli will be opening at the ground floor of the Capitol View office building,** located at 425 E St., SW. The deli should be open by May and will be the eighth location to open in the District. **In addition, a Pizza Authentica will open in the other retail space in the building.**

■ **20 M St., SE, a LEED-Gold office building owned by Lerner Enterprises, is now 97% leased.** The building delivered in March 2007 and tenants include the Bureau of Land Management, Booz Allen Hamilton, the Columbia Group

and Systems Planning and Analysis. A Wachovia branch occupies the ground floor.

■ **After more than three years of delays due to the economic downturn, an apartment building planned for the corner of South Capitol and O streets, SW by Camden Property Trust will get underway in 2011.** The 274-unit project will contain ground floor retail and rise 10-11 stories with balconies facing Nationals Park.

■ **The DC Council unanimously passed a bill in December that changes the rules regarding affordable housing requirements at the Southwest Waterfront development.** The new law requires that 30% of the first 500 units built are to be affordable, with half of the units reserved for households earning up to 60% of Area Median Income (AMI) and the other half for households earning up to 30% of AMI. For any housing units built beyond the 500-unit amount, at least 20% of those units will be reserved as "workforce housing," which are for people such as teachers, nurses, police officers, and fire fighters.

■ **The first phase of renovation to La Promenade, the retail area of L'Enfant Plaza, is nearing completion after more than a year of construction.** Confirmed tenants at the food court include Au Bon Pain (which was at the old Promenade), Potbelly Sandwich Works, Roti Mediterranean Grill, Mamma Ilardo's, Frozen Yogurt Indulgence, and Gourmet Too. Once the food court is completed, the next phase of renovations will begin, which includes the construction of a glass atrium to bring more natural light to the shopping center.

News from Southwest was adapted from the Southwest...The Little Quadrant That Could blog (www.southwestquadrant.blogspot.com) and Near SE news was adapted from the JD Land blog (www.jdland.com/dc).

Barbara Ehrlich Featured at January 30 Grounds for Discussion

Community activist Barbara Ehrlich, a 40-year Southwest resident presents "Looking Forward to 2011 in Southwest DC" at the Grounds for Discussion program on Sun., Jan. 30, beginning at 11 a.m. at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW. The event includes refreshments and a facilitated Question & Answer session.

She explains, "My perspectives continue to govern why I have chosen to stay in Southwest and contribute to community life."

In early 1970, Ehrlich came from Phila-

delphia to Washington where she worked as a public-health nutritionist for the D.C. Department of Human Services with clinic assignments for many years in Southeast Washington.

The Grounds for Discussion is a community speaker forum offered by the church on the last Sunday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to noon. It focuses on local, national and global issues that challenge us both as citizens and people of faith, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, priest-in-charge. Guest speakers will include writers, educators, and civic and church leaders.



Kids enjoy time with Santa at the 1st Annual Southwest Community Forum's (SWCF) Kids Christmas Party held on Dec. 23, 2010 at King Greenleaf Recreation Center. More than 300 kids attended the party. SWCF partnered with Sasha Bruce Youthwork, American Red Cross, Higher Hopes to Outcomes, Mosiac Love, DPR, The Roving Leaders, Charley Horse & Carriage Co., USA Motors, and Nate and Buster Photos to make sure that each child had the opportunity to get a gift and a photo with Santa.

The Southwester is looking for a volunteer Business Manager. If interested in helping out, e-mail thesouthwester@yahoo.com

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Young Footballers Get Awards

Several dozen players on four football teams, who have been representing Southwest against teams from all parts of D.C., were rewarded with a banquet and trophies at the King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, Sun., Jan. 9



Sat. Breakfast at Christ Methodist

By Elaine Graves

Lee Clark, Samuel Brooks, George Gilmore, and Ronnie Wilder are dedicated cooks and servers of the Christ United Methodist Church's Men's Group which prepares a hearty breakfast the third Saturday of each month, except for July, August and September. For \$5.00, breakfast guests enjoy eggs,

quiche, bacon, potatoes, spiced apples, biscuits, orange juice, coffee and good company. For 15 years, the group has raised money to serve the community through mentorship of young men, sponsorship of college students, and church repairs. Gilmore has headed the breakfast group the last seven years. Marvin Martin, not pictured, heads the Men's Group.

The next breakfast is Sat., Feb. 19.



Lee Clark, Samuel Brooks, George Gilmore and Ronnie Wilder of the Christ United Methodist Church's Men's Group. Photo by Elaine Graves.

Westminster's Wellness Wednesday Programs

By Elaine Graves

WESTMINSTER DC

"...I kept thinking that your church embodies what religious organizations strive to do but seldom achieve: create a venue for diverse groups in the community to come together. What better way to bring people together than to share music, the most precious gift to humankind."

—a Jewish visitor to Friday Jazz Night in Southwest



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The Westminster Presbyterian Church will offer yoga classes every Wednesday this year as part of its Wellness Wednesday Program. The weekly Therapeutic Yoga and Healing Sessions, focusing on "yoga for Every Body" will begin at 4 p.m. and last one hour. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

Yoga styles taught will include **seated yoga**. This gentle yoga includes a series of movements to develop flexibility, balance, strength and endurance, adapted for all body types. Careful instruction will promote proper breathing, meditation, positive thinking, and deep relaxation. This type of yoga is excellent for people with a range of chronic conditions and limited mobility. No experience in yoga or particular mobility is required. Seated yoga classes will be taught by 23-year teaching veteran Pamela Wilson.

The Weekly Wellness Wednesday also includes 5 p.m. Laughter Yoga, 6:45 p.m. Sampoorna Hatha Yoga and 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous meeting. The additional yoga classes will be featured in upcoming issues of *The Southwester*.

Westminster will also offer **healing sessions**. These sessions offer participants an opportunity to focus and experience healing energy that soothes and calms the mind and spirit. The class will offer guided meditation and prayerful hands-on healing that offers comfort to people who are stressed or grieving. These sessions are designed to assist those who are ill or otherwise distressed. To set up a healing session, call the church at 202-484-7700.

Healing sessions will be led by Riva Wine, a member of the Southwest community since 1980.

Education and Schools

Community Support for Reopening Van Ness Elementary School

By Meg Brinckman

On Dec. 8, Kaya Henderson, Interim Chancellor of DC Public Schools (DCPS), was at the Courtyard Marriott to listen to residents express their overwhelming support for reopening the former Van Ness Elementary School to serve the rapidly growing Capitol Riverfront Community.

Abigail Smith, Chief, Transformation Management Office, reminded the approximately 125 Capitol Hill residents in attendance that DCPS has kept Van Ness in the inventory since it was closed in 2006, anticipating the kind of growth that appears to be occurring now. At present there are approximately 480 elementary-age students living within a half mile of the Van Ness building, located at Fifth and M streets, SE, near the Navy Yard. Plans over the next 5 to 7 years anticipate the addition of 2,400 new residential units.

The audience focused largely on the need to preserve a close-by school that would anchor their neighborhood. Numerous parents men-

tioned the distance students would have to travel to Amidon-Bowen as the two elementary schools in the area, Brent and Tyler, are near capacity.

Parents with children not yet in school as well as individuals without children both supported the need to reopen Van Ness. Several attendees spoke about the large number of preschool children in the area and the possibility of using one of the elementary schools for Pre-K to first grade. Students from Amidon-Bowen, Brent and Tyler Elementary Schools feed into Jefferson Middle School and then move on to the newly renovated Eastern High School starting next year. Jefferson will begin a new program using the International Baccalaureate curriculum in 2011-2012.

DCPS will use final housing specifications, including the number and size of the units built in the area surrounding Van Ness, to predict the increase in school-age population. They will also take into consideration trends in out-of-boundary enrollment. Every school in the DCPS system that has not been renovated is on schedule for modernization. It is not possible to open Van Ness in 2011-2012 because funds

are committed to other schools that are in need of repair and modernization. Amidon-Bowen is scheduled for a Phase I (interior) modernization in the summer of 2011, and it is planned to have a Phase II (exterior) renovation in 2016. In the final analysis, the decision to reopen Van Ness will be driven by enrollment demands and available funding.



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Amidon-Bowen Celebrates the Holiday Season

By Margaret Brinckman

BOTANICAL GARDENS VISIT

On Dec. 9th, Pre-K and Kindergarten students in Ms. Hayes, Ms. Gwanfobe and Ms. White's classes walked to the United States Botanical Garden to see designer Paul Busse's fantasy garden. The garden featured a railroad and the National Mall, all created with plant materials.

A-B CHORUS PERFORMS

On Dec. 12th, Shiloh Baptist Church's annual presentation of the Messiah included on the program the fourth- and fifth-grade Chorus members under the leadership of Ms. Para Perry, Amidon-Bowen's music teacher. Students sang "The Many Faces of Christmas," by Robert Shaw, along with the Shiloh Youth and Children's Choir and the Seaton Elementary



New PTA officers pictured here with their enthusiastic children: Deana Rhodes-Khalr, 3rd Vice President, Tarek Mousa, LSAT Representative, Romaine Hart-Cooper, President, Bridget Oakes, Assistant Treasurer, Norma Fisher, 2nd Vice President. Not pictured: Obiamaka Melfonwu, 1st Vice President, Tiffany Blakney, Secretary, Natasha Freeman, Treasurer. Photo by Meg Brinckman.

School Choir. Republic Properties, 1280 Maryland Ave. SW, also invited the Amidon-Bowen Chorus to entertain at their Tenant's Association Party on Dec. 15th.

SAXOPHONE CONCERT

On Dec. 16th, the New Century Saxophone Quartet gave a concert for the fourth-grade classes of Ms. Blackwood and Ms. Williams and the fifth-grade classes of Ms. Huges and Ms. Worthington in the Cafetorium. The music ranged from familiar Christmas songs to Mariachi music arranged for saxophone and the Folk Dances by Shostakovich.

SINGING HOLIDAY FAVORITES

The season wound up with a school-wide holiday program on Friday morning, with the Chorus singing holiday favorites. The sing-along was complete with a PowerPoint display of the words so that all members of the audience could participate. Several classes presented skits and in the afternoon parents and students were invited to enjoy the movie, "The Polar Express."



New Century Saxophone Quartet: Ms. Para Perry, Amidon-Bowen Music Teacher, Introduces The New Century Quartet. Photo by Meg Brinckman.

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